

IRISH POSTAL ACCOUNT.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 10 July 1893;—for,

COPY "of STATEMENT showing how an ESTIMATED DEFICIT on the IRISH POSTAL
ACCOUNT, as given in Parliamentary Paper No. 280 of Session 1893, has been
calculated."

Treasury Chambers, }
13 July 1893. }

JOHN T. HIBBERT.

(*Mfr. Chamberlain.*)

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STATEMENT showing how an ESTIMATED DEFICIT on the IRISH POSTAL ACCOUNT, as given in Parliamentary Paper No. 280 of Session 1893, has been calculated.

Payments made in Ireland in 1892-93—		£.
(a.) Under the Post Office and Telegraph Votes - - - - -		712,000
(b.) Under other Votes (building, stationery, &c.) - - - - -		20,000
		<u>732,000</u>
Deduct,—Allowance in respect of carriage of American mails for Great Britain over Irish railroads - - - - -		15,000
		<u>717,000</u>
Add,—		
(1.) Ireland's estimated share of the Packet Services between Great Britain and Ireland, viz. :—		
	£.	
One-third of Holyhead and Kingstown Services - - - - -	27,333	
One-half of the other Services - - - - -	12,250	
	<u>39,583</u>	
In round figures - - - - -		40,000
(2.) Ireland's estimated share of the Imperial Packet Service, and of the net payments to Foreign Governments and Railway Companies (750,000L.) - - - - -		30,000
		<u>787,000</u>
The total Postal Revenue collected in Ireland in 1892-93 was - - - - -		735,000
Accordingly, the estimated deficit was - - - - -		<u>£. 52,000</u>

Accurate calculations of Irish postal revenue and expenditure, based upon actual records cannot be made, because such records have not been kept. The estimate given in the foregoing account follows generally the principle adopted in the Postal Union and in agreements with the Colonies. It credits Ireland with the Post Office revenue collected in Ireland, and it debits her with the money expended in Ireland on postal service, subject, however, to the following adjustments:—

(1.) Part of the sum paid under contract to Irish railways represents the carriage of the American mails by the Great Southern and Western Railway to Cork, and by the Great Northern of Ireland Railway to Londonderry. The total sum paid by the Post Office to these two companies for the carriage of mails over their lines amounts to about 80,000L. a year. The proportion of that sum properly chargeable for the carriage of American mails cannot be accurately ascertained at present, because no distinction is made in the contracts between the payment to be made for that service, and payment to be made for the inland postal service, and because no record is kept of the actual weight of the American mails so conveyed. It is, however, calculated that, if the subsidies paid on those lines were assimilated to the subsidies paid on other lines, such as the Midland Railway, which do not carry a special foreign mail, they would amount to about 65,000L. a year, and the difference should represent the extra payment for the carriage of the American mail. That sum, 15,000L., is accordingly deducted from the Irish postal expenditure, as not forming part of Irish postal service.

(2.) The subsidies to the steam vessels which carry mails between Great Britain and Ireland are paid in Great Britain, and Ireland is debited with one-half of such subsidies subject to deduction for the American mails. The American mails carried across St. George's Channel from Holyhead to Kingstown, and vice versa, are reckoned to represent about one-third of the whole of the mails carried by the Holyhead packets. There is, therefore, deducted from the total charge incurred on this line, viz.

	£82,000
One-third, as properly belonging to the Foreign Packet Service - - - - -	27,333
Remainder - - - - -	<u>54,667</u>

Ireland is debited with one half of this remainder, or - - - - - £. 27,333
 The other packet services between the two countries costing 24,500L. are understood not to carry any large amount of American mails, and Ireland is therefore debited with half the cost, or - - - - - 12,250

£. 39,583

Say - - - - - £. 40,000

(3.) The Postal Revenue collected in Ireland comprises additional rates charged on letters, packets, and telegrams addressed to foreign countries and colonies. As Ireland therefore obtains the benefit of these additional rates, she must bear her share of the cost of the foreign mail service. There are no certain data on which to base a calculation of this share. Statistics indicate that the business of the various branches of the Post Office in Ireland represents about 5 per cent. of the corresponding business of the United Kingdom. This may perhaps be a somewhat high percentage to apply to Ireland considering the extent of British commerce.

	£.
The Foreign Packet Service amounts to about - - - -	600,000
The net average payments during the last two years to Foreign and Colonial Governments amount to about - - - -	150,000
	<u>£. 750,000</u>

Five per cent. on 750,000*l.* amounts to 37,500*l.*

It is suggested that the charge against Ireland on this account should be estimated at 30,000*l.*

It will be noted that these estimates can only at the present time be approximate, and the Imperial and Irish Governments will have to consider the means of obtaining a more accurate basis of calculation.

ARNOLD MORLEY.

JOHN T. HIBBERT.

13 July 1893.